NATION'S CAPITAL FETES
Dartmouth's Dr. Koop on his 90th birthday

Party planners in the nation's capital couldn't wait for former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop to actually turn 90 before throwing him a big party. On September 13, 2006—a month before Dr. Koop's birthday—a gala celebration was held at the historic Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C.

Prominent: More than 200 people attended. Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Orrin Hatch were the event's cochairs. Other prominent politicians and physicians paid him tribute. Three of his successors as U.S. surgeon general were there, and many of his former pediatric surgery trainees traveled to Washington for the event. And Koop himself gave a speech about the next great task for our century—obtaining health care for all Americans.

Then back home in the Upper Valley, on November 2, he was the guest of honor at yet another birthday celebration. This one was at DHMC. And this time the celebration commemorated not only the birthday milestone, but also the fact that a new DHMC research complex is to be named after him (see article on the facing page).

Career: Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on October 14, 1916, Koop graduated from Dartmouth College in 1937. He spent much of his career as a pediatric surgeon and established the first neonatal unit in the U.S. at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Koop then served in the U.S. Navy and returned to Dartmouth as a professor of surgery and director of pediatric surgery in 1946. He became the founding dean of the Dartmouth Medical School in 1956 and served as U.S. Surgeon General from 1982 to 1989. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a recipient of the National Medal of Science, the country's highest honor conferred by the National Science Foundation.

20,000
Number of patients now cared for each year at Norris Cotton Cancer Center

**THEN & NOW**

A reminder of the pace of change, and of timeless truths, from a history of Dartmouth's Norris Cotton Cancer Center published circa 1987:

"The first official suggestion that the federal government might have an appropriate role to play in the effort to find a cure for cancer came from Matthew Neely, a Democratic Senator from West Virginia. As early as 1928, he introduced a bill in the Senate authorizing the National Academy of Science to investigate cancer." In the 1960s, Dr. Frank Lane, director of radiation therapy at Dartmouth, "perceived and articulated the need for a regional cancer center . . . that could serve all of rural northern New England." The National Cancer Act was finally passed in 1971.

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Scenes from Dr. Koop’s 90th birthday party: 1 the guest of honor and the event’s cochairs, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Orrin Hatch; 2 four former surgeons general—Drs. David Satcher, Antonia Novello, Koop, and Richard Carmona; 3 Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, with Koop; 4 Dr. Judah Folkman of Harvard and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the NIH; 5 Dr. Roy Schwarz, former vice president of the AMA (and a current DMS Overseer), with Koop; 6 Dr. John Seffrin, CEO of the American Cancer Society, with Koop; 7 the cake, adorned with a bow tie of Koop’s own design; 8 the event cochairs making remarks about the guest of honor; 9 another speech, this one by Dr. Timothy Johnson, medical editor for ABC News; and 10 DMS’s dean, Dr. Stephen Spielberg.

Hospital of Philadelphia. He served as U.S. surgeon general from 1981 to 1989. In addition to being the government’s chief spokesperson on AIDS in the tumultuous years after the disease’s identification, he advised the public on a variety of other matters: smoking’s effect on health; diet and nutrition; environmental health hazards; and the importance of immunization and disease prevention.

In 1992, he established the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth, where he is still active as the Institute’s senior scholar and a relentless advocate for public health and health education. He is also the Elizabeth DeCamp McInerny Professor of Surgery at Dartmouth Medical School.

Golden: “I frequently muse upon the fact that I’ve had a very wonderful life,” Koop told Dartmouth Medicine recently. “I think I was practicing pediatric surgery right in the middle of the golden era of surgery. And I think that the eight years that I spent as Surgeon General was right on the cusp of the best years in public health. So I’ve seen the best. I’ve been part of the best. And that brings a sense of gratification.”

When asked what he might have done if he hadn’t been a physician, he chuckles. “It’s funny—if I hadn’t been a physician, I probably would have . . . run a bookstore,” he says. “I would have always been associated with finding eager young minds who wanted to learn more, because that is the biggest kick I get out of what I do.”

Laura Stephenson Carter

New DHMC complex is to be named in honor of Dr. Koop

D r. C. Everett Koop, a Dartmouth alumnus and former U.S. surgeon general, took on big tobacco and talked openly about AIDS when few others would. His name was in the headlines then, and it will soon be emblazoned at DHMC—on a new research complex. “I take great pride in the fact that the four institutions concerned”—the Medical School, Hospital, Clinic, and College—were unanimous in the naming decision, said Koop at a celebration in his honor at DHMC.

The $140-million Koop Medical Science Complex will provide a new home for DMS’s Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences and flexible lab space for translational research. Linking its two wings will be a gathering space to be called LeBaron Commons. For more on the complex, see http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/fall06/html/vs_building.php.

Jennifer Durgin

This architect’s rendering shows the two wings of DHMC’s Koop Complex-to-be.